

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following paragraph:

As shown in FIG. 1 ~~[FIG. 2]~~, the two halves 101, 102 ~~(FIG. 1)~~ are joined via posts 330, 335. FIG. 2 depicts one example where the posts 330, 335 may be positioned on substantially opposite sides of longitudinal central axis 305 ~~(FIG. 2)~~. Preferably, however, the posts 330, 335 are offset slightly (e.g., about 67°) to give the patient the appearance of a more “open” environment, and to facilitate easier access to the patient (FIG. 3). Preferably, the posts 330, 335 have sufficient rigidity to withstand axial compressive forces acting thereon (e.g., from the magnetic force generated and the weight of MRI device components), as well as to limit any vibration which may occur during an imaging operation. By way of example, the posts 330, 335 would preferably have sufficient rigidity to withstand an axial compressive force of at least one million Newtons for a 1.2 Tesla magnet. The two halves 101, 102 may include flanged portions to facilitate attachment of the various coils/rings, and/or posts 330, 335.

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following paragraph.

Iron rings 130, 135 are positioned between the main coils 110, 115 and corresponding bucking coils 120, 125 on an outer surface of the single unit support structure in order to reduce the interaction of magnetic fields between the main coils 110, 115 and the corresponding bucking coils 120, 125. Furthermore, as shown in FIG. 1, ~~[FIG. 2]~~ additional iron rings 132, 137 may be provided to reduce the interaction of magnetic fields between the main coils 110, 115 and the shaping coils 150, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158. Other configurations are also possible, as would be readily apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art after reading this disclosure.

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